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THE KNIGHT ERRANT.

Spirits of old that bore me,
And set me, meek of mind,
Between great dreams before me
And deeds as great behind,
Knowing humanity my star
As first abroad I ride,
Shall help me wear, with every scar,
Honour at eventide.

Let claws of lightning clutch me,
From summer's groaning cloud,
Or ever malice touch me
And glory make me proud.
O give my faith, my youth, my sword,
Choice of the heart's desire:
A short life in the saddle, LORD!
Not long life by the fire.

Forethought and recollection
Rivet mine armour gay!
The passion of perfection
Redeem my faulty way!
The outer fray in the sun shall be
The inner beneath the moon;
And may Our Lady lend to me
Sight of the Dragon soon!

LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY.